

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00353 221118Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

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R 220935Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4536
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK

SUBJECT: BUSINESS REPRESENTATION: BECHTEL CORPORATION

REF: TEHRAN 0604, 75 KUWAIT 3067,

1. AS REPORTED IN SECOND REF BECHTEL DECIDED LAST SUMMER TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL OFFICE IN KUWAIT WHICH AS FAR AS WE KNOW WILL ALSO HAVE SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES OVER BECHTEL ACTIVITIES IN IRAN. IT POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT BECHTEL WILL ALSO HAVE AN OFFICE OR PRESENCE OF SOME KIND IN IRAN WHICH WOULD REPORT TO KUWAIT.

2. BECHTEL OFFICE HERE INCLUDES OLD BEIRUT OFFICE AS WELL AS CERTAIN OTHER ACTIVITIES SOME OF WHICH HAD BEEN PERFORMED PREVIOUSLY IN LONDON. IN ADDITION TO BECHTEL STAFF HER SUPERVISING KUWAIT GAS UTILIZATION PROJECT, SENIOR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE BASED HERE. IN ADDITION VICE PRESIDENT HEADING ONE OF COMPANY'S SEVEN OPERATING DIVISIONS, BECHTEL PETROLEUM AND

CHEMICALS/EASTERN (P&CE) WILL BE BASED HERE, AND HE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF DIVISION'S ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE (INCLUDING NORTH SEA), MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA.

3. COMMENT: STARTING IN EARLY 1975 BECHTEL CAREFULLY CONSIDERED SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES TO KUWAIT INCLUDING CAIRO AND BAHRAIN. IT POSSIBLE THAT TEHRAN WAS ALSO CONSIDERED, ALTHOUGH ACCORDING TO COMPANY OFFICIALS HERE COMPANY ALWAYS ASSUMED REGIONAL OFFICE SHOULD BE IN ARAB COUNTRY. AS NOTED ABOVE A BECHTEL OFFICE SUB-
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ORDINATE TO KUWAIT COULD BE CONSIDERED FOR TEHRAN OR A BECHTEL

DIVISION OTHER THAN P& CE MAY LOCATE IN TEHRAN.

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